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6 *Special Insurance Counsel to*

7 *The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors*

8 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
9 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

Case No. 23-30564

Chapter 11

11 *In re:*

12 THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP
13 OF SAN FRANCISCO,

14 Debtor and Debtor in Possession.

**DECLARATION OF JESSE J. BAIR IN
SUPPORT OF FOURTH INTERIM FEE
APPLICATION OF BURNS BAIR LLP AS
SPECIAL INSURANCE COUNSEL TO THE
OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED
CREDITORS FOR ALLOWANCE AND
PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION AND
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR
THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2024
THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025**

18 Judge: Hon. Dennis Montali

19 Date: April 10, 2025

Time: 1:30 p.m. (Pacific Time)

Objection Deadline: March 20, 2025

20 Place: United States Bankruptcy Court
21 450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

22
23 I, Jesse J. Bair, hereby declare as follows:

24 1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Wisconsin. I am a partner
25 of the law firm Burns Bair LLP, special insurance counsel for the Committee, and am authorized
26 to make this Declaration in that capacity. Except as otherwise indicated, all statements in this
27 Declaration are based on my personal knowledge, and, if called upon to do so, I could and would
28 testify competently thereto.

1 2. I make this Declaration in support of the *Fourth Interim Fee Application of Burns*
2 *Bair LLP as Special Insurance Counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for*
3 *Allowance and Payment of Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period of*
4 *October 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025* (the “**Interim Application**”).¹ I am an attorney
5 designated by the Applicant to sign the Interim Application on its behalf.

6 3. Pursuant to the Northern District Guidelines, I declare that:

7 a. I have read the Interim Application.

8 b. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief formed after
9 reasonable inquiry, the compensation and expense reimbursement sought in the
10 Interim Application are in conformity with the Northern District Guidelines
11 except as otherwise indicated in the Interim Application.

12 c. The compensation requested in the Interim Application has been billed at
13 rates and in accordance with practices no less favorable than those currently
14 employed by the Applicant and generally accepted by the Applicant’s clients.

15 4. There is no agreement or understanding between Burns Bair and any other person
16 other than the partners of Burns Bair for the sharing of compensation to be received for services
17 rendered in this case.

18 5. As required by the Northern District Guidelines, Burns Bair has sent monthly
19 billing statements to the Debtor during this Chapter 11 Case. I declare that the Debtor and the
20 U.S. Trustee are each being provided with a copy of the Interim Application in accordance with
21 the Interim Compensation Order.

22 6. Burns Bair responds to the questions identified in the U.S. Trustee Guidelines as
23 follows:

24 (a) **Question:** Did you agree to any variations from, or alternatives to, your standard
25 or customary billing rates, fees or terms for services pertaining to this engagement that
were provided during the application period? If so, please explain.

26 **Answer:** No.
27

28 ¹ Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Interim Application.

1 (b) **Question:** If the fees sought in this fee application as compared to the fees
2 budgeted for the time period covered by this fee application are higher by 10% or more,
3 did you discuss the reasons for the variation with the client?

4 **Answer:** N/A.

5 (c) **Question:** Have any of the professionals included in this fee application varied
6 their hourly rate based on the geographic location of the bankruptcy case?

7 **Answer:** No.

8 (d) **Question:** Does the fee application include time or fees related to reviewing or
9 revising time records or preparing, reviewing, or revising invoices? (This is limited to
10 work involved in preparing and editing billing records that would not be compensable
11 outside of bankruptcy and does not include reasonable fees for preparing a fee
12 application.). If so, please quantify by hours and fees.

13 **Answer:** No. Any time worked on these tasks would have been in connection
14 with preparing monthly fee statements.

15 (e) **Question:** Does the fee application include time or fees for reviewing time
16 records to redact any privileged or other confidential information? If so, please quantify
17 by hours and fees.

18 **Answer:** In connection with preparing monthly fee statements, Burns Bair spent
19 approximately .90 hours reviewing invoices for privilege or other confidential
20 information.

21 (f) **Question:** If the fee application includes any rate increases since retention: (i)
22 Did your client review and approve those rate increases in advance? (ii) Did your client
23 agree when retaining the law firm to accept all future rate increases? If not, did you
24 inform your client that they need not agree to modified rates or terms in order to have
25 you continue the representation, consistent with ABA Formal Ethics Opinion 11-458?

26 **Answer:** N/A

27 7. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a true and correct copy of a letter transmitting
28 the Interim Application that was emailed to the group of four Committee members whom the
Committee has charged with handling fee issues in this Case. The letter invites the Committee
to discuss with the Committee professionals and the United States Trustee any objections,
concerns, or questions the Committee may have with regard to the requested compensation and
reimbursement set forth in the Committee professionals' interim fee applications.

1 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true
2 and correct. Executed this 6th day of March, 2025 in Madison, Wisconsin.

3 */s/ Jesse J. Bair*

4 _____
Jesse J. Bair

EXHIBIT A



Gillian N. Brown

March 6, 2025

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Via Email

Mr. Jerold M. Dumlao
Ms. Madeline McFeely
Ms. Sophia M. Prevatte
Mr. Manuel Suarez

**Re: In re The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San
Francisco: *First Interim Fee Applications of the
Committee's Professionals***

Dear Jerry, Madeline, Sophia, and Manny:

Attached please find the fourth interim fee applications (the "Applications") that the Committee's professionals (Burns Bair, LLP; Berkeley Research Group, LLC; and Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP) filed today. The Bankruptcy Court's *Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Trustees* provide that a debtor in possession, a trustee, or an official committee must exercise reasonable business judgment in monitoring the fees and expenses of the bankruptcy estate's professionals. I am providing these Applications to you as the Committee members who attend to fee issues in the Archdiocese of San Francisco's bankruptcy case.

You have previously reviewed the bills underlying these Applications. We invite you to discuss with us any objections, concerns, or questions you have regarding these Applications. The Office of the United States Trustee similarly will accept your comments. At the hearing on these Applications, currently set for April 10, 2025, the Bankruptcy Court will consider any timely-filed objections.



PACHULSKI
STANG
ZIEHL &
JONES

March 6, 2025
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Once we receive the Debtor's professionals' interim fee applications, we will forward those to you, as well.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Gillian N. Brown

Gillian N. Brown

Enclosures

cc: James I. Stang, Esq. (i/o)
Debra I. Grassgreen, Esq. (i/o)
Brittany M. Michael, Esq. (i/o)
Ms. Beth D. Dassa (i/o)
Timothy Burns, Esq.
Jesse Bair, Esq.
Mr. Ray Strong
Mr. Matthew Babcock
Mr. Milo Kuhn